

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-01 L-03 FRB-03
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 OPIC-03
STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
NEA-10 /144 W

-----121106 071520Z /42

P 071410Z AUG 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN

SUBJECT: UNCTAD - PREPARATIONS FOR 18TH TDB, AUGUST 29 -
SEPTEMBER 15

REF: STATE 195295

1. SUMMARY: IN CONSULTATIONS WITHIN GROUP B (AUGUST 3)
AND WITH SYG COREA AND THE OTHER GROUPS (AUGUST 4) THERE
WAS A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ORGANIZATIONAL
QUESTIONS AND ON SOME OF THE ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE AT
THE 18TH TDB. (COREA'S VIEWS ON UNCTAD V AGENDA REPORTED
IN SEPTTEL.) FEW CHANGES WERE SUGGESTED IN THE PROPOSED
ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE 18TH TDB (TD/B/709/ADD 2).
END SUMMARY.

2. ISSUES - IN AUGUST 3 GROUP B MEETING AND IN AUGUST 4
CONSULTATIONS WITH SYG COREA, COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS WERE
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RAISED ON THE FOLLOWING TDB AGENDA ITEMS:

- ITEM 5(B)(III) - GSP CONSULTATION PROCEDURES. IN
AUGUST 3 GROUP B MEETING, CANADA SUGGESTED THAT GROUP B
CAPITALS CAREFULLY CONSIDER SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS IN
GSP CONSULTATION PROCEDURES, WHICH THE SECRETARIAT WILL
PRESENT FOR THE BOARD'S CONSIDERATION IN TD/B/713. (THE

CANADIANS INDICATED THAT THEY HAVE RESERVATIONS ON SECRETARIAT'S SUGGESTION TO HOLD PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN LDCS AND INDIVIDUAL PREFERENCE-GIVING COUNTRIES.)

- ITEM 6(C)(III) - SPECIFIC ACTION RELATED TO LAND-LOCKED LDCS. THE UK MISSION, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON, PRIVATELY EXPRESSED CONCERN TO CERTAIN GROUP B MISSIONS ABOUT UNCTAD SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS IN TD/B/705, ADVOCATE SPECIAL OCEAN FREIGHT RATES FOR LAND-LOCKED LDCS. POINTING OUT THAT SUCH A POLICY COULD DAMAGE DC SHIPPING INTERESTS, THE UK HAS SUGGESTED THAT GROUP B DELEGATIONS TO THE TDB BE FULLY BRIEFED ON THIS AGENDA ITEM.

- ITEM 5(D) - TERMS OF REFERENCE OF UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING (COS). IN AUGUST 3 GROUP B MEETING, IT WAS DECIDED THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECENT DECISION MADE IN THE OECD, GROUP B AT THE TDB SHOULD SEEK TO POSTPONE DECISION ON COS TERMS OF REFERENCE TO ENABLE THE COS TO REVIEW THEM AT ITS NEXT MEETING. IN AUGUST 4 CONSULTATIONS, AMB. BRILLANTES (PHILIPPINES) ALSO SUGGESTED THAT COS BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW ITS OWN TERMS OF REFERENCE BEFORE THEY ARE ADOPTED BY THE TDB. (COMMENT: WHILE BRILLANTES WAS NOT SPEAKING FOR THE G-77 AS A WHOLE, HIS SUPPORT SHOULD ASSIST GROUP B IN SEEKING TDB DECISION TO POSTPONE ACTION ON THIS AGENDA ITEM. END COMMENT)

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- ITEM 7(H) - RATIONALIZATION OF UNCTAD PERMANENT MACHINERY. IN AUGUST 4 CONSULTATIONS, AMB. BRILLANTES POINTED OUT THAT RATIONALIZATION OF UNCTAD MACHINERY WOULD BE IMPORTANT TOPIC FOR UNCTAD V, BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SET UP WORKING GROUP TO DEAL WITH THIS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL TOPICS AT TDB. COREA SAID THAT SECRETARIAT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS ON UNCTAD INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE BEFORE UNCTAD V, AND THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT THIS TOPIC BE HANDLED BY THE CONTACT GROUP WHICH WILL DEAL WITH ALL UNCTAD V MATTERS. WHILE COREA AND BRILLANTES APPEARED TO ANTICIPATE THAT LITTLE OR NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN ON INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES AT 18TH TDB, THE G-77 SPOKESMAN (JARAMILLO OF COLOMBIA) SAID THAT HIS GROUP ATTACHES A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE TO THIS TOPIC AND HOPES THAT SIGNIFICANT RESULTS CAN BE ACHIEVED AT THE 18TH TDB. (COMMENT: THESE STATEMENTS REFLECT CURRENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT AND THE G-77 ON UNCTAD'S FUTURE ROLE AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE. END COMMENT)

3. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS - ALL GROUPS IN AUGUST 4
CONSULTATIONS ENDORSED SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL TO SET UP
TWO SESSIONAL COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH AGENDA ITEMS 5 AND
3, RESPECTIVELY. GROUP B THE PREVIOUS DAY CONSIDERED
U.S. SUGGESTION TO DIVIDE WORK LOAD MORE EVENLY BETWEEN
SESSIONAL COMMITTEES, BUT THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE
WISE TO SUGGEST AN ADDITIONAL TOPIC FOR SC-II SINCE
DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN IN UNCTAD RESOLUTION 98(IV) TO
ESTABLISH SESSIONAL COMMITTEE AT TDB THAT WOULD FOCUS
EXCLUSIVELY ON EAST/SOUTH ECONOMIC RELATIONS. WHILE OTHER
GROUP B COUNTRIES SHARED U.S. VIEWS ON INTERDEPENDENCE
ISSUE, EXPRESSED IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL, IT WAS FELT THAT
WE SHOULD NOT PROPOSE MOVING THE ISSUE UNDER AGENDA ITEM

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5, SINCE WE HAD PREVIOUSLY DECIDED IN TDB DECISION
144(XVI) TO MAINTAIN INTERDEPENDENCE AS A SPECIFIC TOPIC ON
THE AGENDA OF ALL REGULAR TDB SESSIONS.

4. DOCUMENTS - COREA ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 4 THAT THE FOL-
LOWING TDB DOCUMENTS WERE NOT YET AVAILABLE: 709 AND
ADD 1 AND 2, 711, 712 AND ADD 1, 715, 721 AND ADD 1,
719, 704, L.504, L.506 AND L.507. (COMMENT: REPORT OF
EXPERTS GROUP ON INTERDEPENDENCE (TD/B/712) IS NOW BEING
REVISED TO INCORPORATE SUGGESTIONS MADE BY DIRECTOR
ARSENIS. MISSION OFFICER WILL OBTAIN ADVANCE COPY OF
REPORT AS SOON AS REVISIONS ARE COMPLETED, WHICH SHOULD BE
WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK. END COMMENT.)

5. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS - IT WAS ANNOUNCED AT AUGUST 4 CONSULTATIONS THAT THE NEXT COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES MEETING WILL ONCE AGAIN BE POSTPONED IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE MTN. THE TDB WILL THEREFORE BE ASKED TO DECIDE WHETHER COMMITTEE SHOULD MEET DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1979 OR AFTER UNCTAD V. COREA ALSO ANNOUNCED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP ON LLDC EXPORT EXPANSION HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL NOVEMBER 13-21.

6. OFFICERS FOR THE 18TH TDB - COREA PROPOSED THAT GROUPS BE PREPARED ON OPENING DAY OF TDB TO PUT FORWARD CANDIDATES FOR BUREAU OF THE BOARD. IT IS NOT KNOWN YET WHO THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP WILL NOMINATE TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT. NEW FRG COORDINATOR FOR GROUP B HAS INVITED COUNTRIES TO TELL HIM PRIOR TO AUGUST 28 GROUP B MEETING IF THEY WOULD LIKE THEIR REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE AS A VICE PRESIDENT. (COMMENT: WE MIGHT FIND IT ADVANTAGEOUS TO SERVE AS A VICE PRESIDENT AT 18TH TDB WHEN THE BUREAU COULD PLAN A ROLE IN RESOLVING QUESTIONS RELATING TO UNCTAD V PREPARATIONS.)
VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA12077
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780322-1095
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA USOECD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780893/aaaaczuo.tel
Line Count: 198
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 996f1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 195295
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1822683
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNCTAD - PREPARATIONS FOR 18TH TDB, AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 15
TAGS: EGEN, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/996f1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014